



WEST DES MOINES HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MINUTES

Thursday, January 13, 2022
City Hall Council Chambers/ZOOM

Commissioners Present: Chandlor Collins, Milton Cole, Shaimaa Aly (left 5:21), Dr. Rich Salas, Tiffany Berkenes, Andrew O'Leary
Commissioners Absent: Lonnette Dafney, Andrew O'Leary
Staff Representative: Hannah Guck (zoom) and Audrey Kennis
Council Liaison: Councilwoman Renee Hardman
Guests:

- **Call to order:** Meeting called to order at 4:37p.m.
- **Roll call**
- **Opportunity for public to address the Commission**
- **Approval of November 2021 Minutes**
 - Commissioner Rich Salas motioned to approve, Commissioner Tiffany seconded, minutes approved.
- **Staff Report**
 - Audrey Kennis updated the Commission on a call she received for a Housing Human Rights violation. The occupant did not file a non-discrimination complaint. However, the property owners do not want to accept the rent from a second party. Audrey gave the necessary information to the individual.
 - One Iowa has an event on February 19 & wants to see if Commission members are interested in funding.
 - Tiffany expressed if there was a way to split funds and use the sponsorship between two organizations. For example, Iowa Safe Schools for LGBTQ.
- **Council Report**
 - Hardman had a meeting with Audrey and suggested that each elected official have the opportunity to meet with our new DEI Director, Audrey 1:1. Hardman thanked Dr. Salas for his support and efforts for MLK Day.
 - A proclamation will be read by Mayor Trimble for the MLK Day Celebration.
- **Report from Commissioners on recent activities**
 - The Commission was updated on the past speaking engagements at the Stillwell Junior High.
- **Old Business**
 - **Citywide Welcome Statement**
 - Audrey updated the Commission on the Citywide Welcome Statement which would be for the City. It was requested if the Commission wants to separate the mission statement or review the current one? The Commission agreed if the current statement is inclusive than we'll keep it the same. Commission prefers to having one statement.
 - Audrey will send the current citywide welcome statement for the Commission to review.

- **Mission Statement**
 - Renee and Rich suggested to bring unity to the HRC and start with having one statement that is an umbrella of the City that will distinguish ourselves yet align with the City.
- **Iowa Author Awards Dinner/Student Update**
 - Rich updated the Commission stating the event went great.
 - Chandlor mentioned the students had a project that would be emailed out to the Commissioners.
 - Hardman would've liked to have more of the Council attend the event due to the importance of the truth and history that was spoken.
- **New Business**
 - **MLK Day Celebration – Jan 17, 2022**
 - Salas updated the schedule for the MLK Day event. Currently 88 to 90 RSVPs for the round table discussion. Both Renee & Chandlor will be a facilitators.
 - **Commission Member Introductions**
 - **No report**
 - **Commission Member Photos/Business Cards**
 - The Commission biographies are due by January 28. Pictures can be taken at the February meeting unless you have a picture you'd like to use.
 - **Attendance for Commissioners**
 - The Commissioners mentioned having the Chair and Vice Chair speak with each Commissioners and where their availability resides. Chandlor and Rich tabled the discussion to February due to the attendance of Commissioners.
 - **Budget Update**
 - **No report**
 - **Upcoming Sponsorships**
- **Next meeting date: February 10, 2022**

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 6:14 pm.

Commissioner Milton Cole moved to adjourn; Commissioner Dr. Rich Salas seconded.

Minutes by: Hannah Guck, Staff Representative